

Opposition to HB 5537 Section 42 [6]
Sharri Lungarini
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To whom it may concern,'

I oppose HB 5537 Section 42 [6].

I am a mom to a special needs son, Wyatt, who benefited from ABA therapy. So much so that I went back to school to get my undergraduate in Child Studies and am in Graduate school for Applied Behavior Analysis.

As a mom ABA services would be negatively impacted by this modification to an SLP's scope of practice as Speech Language Pathologists are not required to take any classes in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLP's. Just as I would not want a BCBA to provide speech and language services as they are not specifically trained, nor would I want a Speech Language Pathologist to provide services for which they are not trained.

As a student of ABA, I know that ethically a provider cannot provide services for which they are not trained and ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of Speech Language Pathologists. We are doing a disservice ethically and for treatment of our patients if this law is allowed.

As a upcoming Behavior Analyst, Behavior Analysis and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts has been defined in existing CT legislation, and this expansion of an SLP's scope of practice would negatively impact other professionals including but not limited to Board Certified Behavior Analysts and School Psychologists. I do know that any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed in accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals.

This is a specialty that as a mom and student I understand special training is required. While Speech Language Pathologists also have unique training, the training for a Behavior Analyst does not fall in line with that training. Behavior Analysis is unique and therefore should only be administered by those trained in it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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